

REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 11, 2003, the specification was objected to because of typographical errors; claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; the specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of claim 8; and claims 5 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,179,925 to Schmitt.

Applicants have cancelled claims 8-12, amended claim 5, and have added claims 13-21 to further claim aspects of Applicants' invention. Support for amendment to the claims may be found, for example, on page 7, between lines 9-33 and in Fig. 2 of the instant application. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 13-21 are pending in this Application. No new matter has been added by this Reply.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct typographical errors as suggested by the Examiner. In particular, the phrase "5a" found in the paragraph on page 6, between lines 23-34, has been replaced with the phrase "5b." In addition, the phrase "Fig. 2" found on page 11, between lines 29-34, has been amended to read "Fig. 1." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Applicants have cancelled claims 8-11, thereby rendering the rejections of claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, moot. In addition, the objection to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for cancelled claim 8, is also rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or, in the alternative, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 5 and 8-12 for at least the reason that Schmitt fails to disclose or even suggest every claimed aspect. For example, independent claim 5 discloses a combination of elements including a first passage that feeds raw material into a gas area of a vaporizer, the first passage having an end, which opens into the gas area and a second passage that feeds a stabilizer to the gas area without passing through any portion of the first passage upstream of the end of the first passage. Schmitt fails to disclose or suggest a second passage that feeds a stabilizer to a gas area without passing through any portion of a first passage upstream of an end of the first passage.

Schmitt discloses connecting a stabilizer feeder line to a precursor supply line of a vaporizer and also connecting the stabilizer feeder line to the vaporizer. However, Schmitt does not disclose connecting the stabilizer feeder line to the vaporizer without passing through any portion of the precursor supply line, upstream of an end of the precursor supply line. In fact, Schmitt discloses no relationship at all between a placement of the stabilizer feeder line and a placement of the precursor supply line within the vaporizer.

For at least the reason that Schmitt fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of independent claim 5, the rejection under 102(a) or, in the alternative, under 103(a), with respect to claim 5, is improper and should be withdrawn. In addition, new claims 13-21, which ultimately depend from independent claim 5 are allowable for at least the same reasons as cited above. Further, each of these dependent claims recites unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art, with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization of the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account no. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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